

Explanation based on PCT Article 19(1)

1. In Cited Reference 1 (JP 11(1999)-19217 A), a base material of a guide wire itself is provided with a helical shape having unevenness, i.e. recessions and protrusions (paragraph [0013]) or three wires are stranded so as to have an uneven shape (paragraph [0024]).

With respect to this, amendments were made to the present invention so that a limitation of a wire "that has a uniform thickness or whose tip is tapered" (page 7, line 30 in the specification) is included, thereby making a clear distinction from Cited Reference 1.

2. In Cited Reference 2 (WO98/38258 A), the fluororesin coating and the particulate matter are not baked as a single unit. This is evident also from the description on page 6, lines 20 to 24 and the recitation of claim 8 as well as the fact that the baking temperature used in each example is 320°C at the highest, which is not higher than the melting point of PTFE (327°C).

With respect to this, in the present invention, based on the descriptions including the description on page 13, lines 15 to 18, the limitation of being "baked into a single unit" is included, and thus "the protrusions are formed rounded, and thus the frictional resistance between the catheter and the guide wire can be reduced, making the action of inserting the catheter into the body easy". (page 13, lines 18 to 20).

3. Based on the above, we believe that the present invention has both novelty and inventive step.